IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): A method of cutting a plastic functional film, in a state applied to a hard substrate, comprising:

making a cut with aid of an ultrasound cutting device, whose characteristics and parameters have been selected so that the cut is made only in the thickness of the functional film while leaving the underlying substrate intact.

Claim 22 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein in the making the cut use is made of an ultrasound cutting device having a head configured to penetrate the functional film, which has an end portion in a general shape of a point with an angle at the apex at least equal to 30°.

Claim 23 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the head has an end portion in a general shape of the point with the angle at the apex on the order of 70°.

Claim 24 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the end of the point is rounded, semispherical, or has a shape of a point with an angle greater than 110°.

Claim 25 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the head has a general shape of a blade whose end is rounded in mid-plane of the blade and has an end portion pointed along a plane perpendicular to the mid-plane of the blade.

Claim 26 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the head has a shape of a cone whose angle at the apex is at least equal to 30°, an end of the cone configured to be rounded, semispherical, or to have a shape of a cone having an angle generally greater than 110°.

Claim 27 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the head is made of a material chosen from steel, titanium, and aluminum, the material having received at least a surface treatment, a polish, formation of a particular surface state, and/or at least one layer deposition.

Claim 28 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the ultrasound cutting device has a power less than 1000 Watts, with an amplitude of vertical movement of the head of 2 to 40 μm.

Claim 29 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the ultrasound cutting device has a vibration frequency of 20,000 to 70,000 Hz.

Claim 30 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the cut is made with a pressure of the head on the substrate coated with the functional film from a value corresponding to a tool placed on the coated substrate up to a value of 2 bar.

Claim 31 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the cut is made with a movement of the substrate coated with the functional film relative to the head of 120 meters/min. at the most.

Claim 32 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate includes a flat or arched plate of monolithic or laminated glass, or of a hard plastic, or of polycarbonate, the plate having received at least one treatment on at least one face, by application of a functional layer, a dirt-repellent layer, a rain-repellent layer, an antireflection layer, an antiscratch layer, or a sun-protection layer.

Claim 33 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the functional film is made of a plastic chosen from polyolefins, low density, medium density, and high density polyethylenes and their blends, polypropylene, poly(vinylchloride)s, and poly(ethylene terephthalate), coated with an acrylic adhesive layer, or an acrylic film, the film configured to be formed of plural layers each of which is formed of a plastic or an acrylic layer.

Claim 34 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the functional film is configured, at least on a portion of the substrate, to be applied in double thickness, and has an overall thickness of between 20 and 200 μm.

Claim 35 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate includes a glazing unit, coated with a metal oxide layer or TiO_2, wherein the cut is made to leave the film on a main portion of a glass pane corresponding to a see-through portion of the glazing unit, and which makes it possible to remove the film from regions of borders of the glazing unit, the borders configured to be inserted into rebates of the frames and to be hidden from view by cover strips.

Claim 36 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate includes a glass plate, and the cut is made to make it possible to remove the film from any desired

location to carry out therein a sandblasting process, or fit an accessory therein, or carry out a bonding of glazing bars on the glass to give a small pane effect or look, or to make a hole in the glass sheet to attach a through-mounting ball joint, the film configured to be cut along a perimeter greater than that of the hole, edges of the hole cleared by the cutting of the film configured to take a seal, after an acid etching treatment of the glass thus cleared around the hole.

Claim 37 (New): A method for protecting at least one face of a substrate of a plate during transportation from a production site to a site of use or installation and during installation handling operations, at least one region of the surface of the substrate needing to be uncovered during the installation handling operations, the protection having to be maintained at least temporarily on a remaining region or regions, the method comprising:

depositing a plastic protective film on the whole of each face to be protected of the substrate for its transportation; and

to make it possible to remove the film in the region or regions that have to be uncovered, making an ultrasound cut in the protective film along a contour of the region or regions.

Claim 38 (New): A substrate configured to form a glazing unit, a motor vehicle window, or a windshield, coated with a functional film, the film comprising an ultrasound cut that has been made through its thickness without an underlying substrate being damaged, whether or not the cut parts have been removed.

Claim 39 (New): An apparatus for carrying out the method of cutting by ultrasound as defined in claim 21, the apparatus being automatic, semiautomatic, or including a portable tool, and comprising the ultrasound cutting device.

Claim 40 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 39, including a glass cutting table onto which the ultrasound cutting device has been fitted, the ultrasound cutting device configured to move in a single direction or in two directions.